ISSUE 17.

WRESTLING THEN & NOW

JUNE 1991

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

MONDAY
JANUARY
6, 1941

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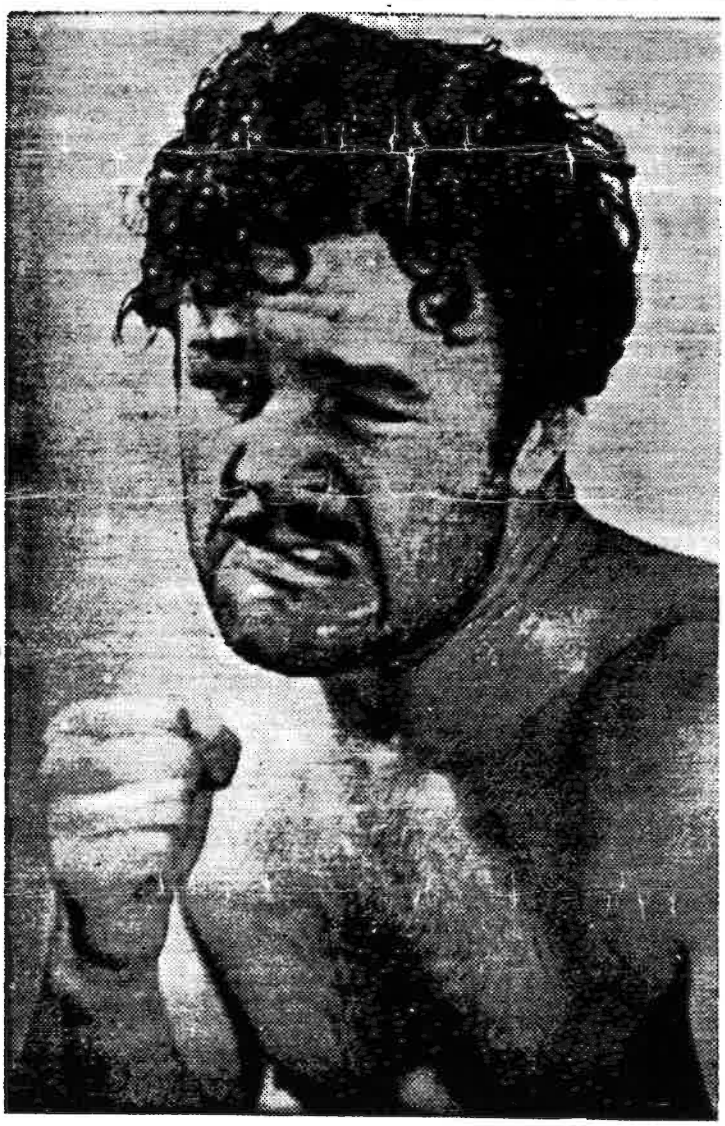


HOLLYWOOD
LEGION
STADIUM

El Centro and
Hollywood Blvd.

DANGEROUS DANNY McSHAIN

McShain renews his personal grudge with Berry tonite. The National Wrestling Association forced the two to meet to clear up the Light Heavyweight title, claimed by both men . McShain claims there will be no doubt in any one's mind who is the best man after they meet in tonite's main event. After their last two brawls, both McShain and Berry had to have a doctor's care to repair the damage they inflicted on one another. Tonites bout should be a classic.

JANUARY 6th, 1941

LETTERS TO WT&N

I received WT&N in Monday's mail. The feature on John Tolos is outstanding. One of the best interviews I have read on him. It was fitting to have him in your April issue because April 5 is John's birthday!

April 5 was also the birthday of the late St. Joseph Mo. promoter, Gust Karras. He was a great friend and a caring person. He showed concern for the business, his workers and an interest in his fans. He was always sitting in the lobby to greet the fans.

Some of the wrestlers working Karras' circuit would be booked into St. Louis shows - this is when I saw a very talented John Tolos. Later, some friends and I made the flight to L.A.. for the Coliseum show with Tolos and Blassie. That is still one of my biggest thrills as a fan. John and Blassie set an attendance record- 25,847 with a gate at $142,158.50. That was a major event back on August 27, 1971! Even today promoters would love a crowd turnout like that. And, of course, the gate would be much higher because ticket prices have gone to the skies!

Thinking about some of the story lines and gimmicks used today - Los Angeles promoter Mike LeBell got out of hand 20 years ago. To my way of thinking it was a circus (remember I was from an area where the NWA/Sam Muchnick, LeRoy McGuirk, Gust Karras were highly respected for wrestling and booking talent with wrestling ability!). But, workers do as they are told (still true today) and LeBell's ideas sold tickets. Tickets will always be sold regardless of how we feel of the situations!

The sad thing today is those with true wrestling ability (which are few and far between) are no longer allowed to display that ability! It's all showmanship and hype today. And - not many fans today know the difference!

Mike Gratchner of Windy City Wrestling will be calling back tonight with more details so that I can get the info out to those who have sent inquiries. The dates are July 19, 20, 21 at the O'Hare Plaza Hotel in Chicago. Special rates for Windy City fans are $55 a night up to 4 persons in a room. You must request the special rate - also they have connecting rooms upon request. Wrestling will be the 19th in Wisconsin at a fair about 2 hours away - also a show the 20th in Chicago. I will send you more info ASAP!

Diane Devine
Denver, Co.

Today's payday and you've got my $6 for renewal. #14 was great.

I'm a big fan of Mike Lano. Mainly, because I grew up at the Olympic Auditorium. Funny, in his column he mentioned Backlund, Fujinami and others appearing there and I couldn't remember them (I spent over 8 years in the army and missed alot). Then a couple of days later a friend sent me some programs from the Olympic and it was all there to read. I'm never going to second guess the Dr. again.

Mike said he heard that the Sammartino-Baba match was weak. I was in Japan around 1968 and watched the first two falls of a match between the two and remember it as a great match. It was the best I had ever seen Bruno. The match went off the air in the third fall so I don't know if it was the draw everyone talks about (I have the finish of that on tape and it didn't look like anything special).

Well, I just wanted to renew. Thanks for printing part of my last letter. I love seeing my name in print. Keep up the good work.

Steve Yohe
Alhambra, Ca.

In Australia, wrestling was huge in the mid-to-late 60s and every Friday night I used to go as a teenager. They were great days as we had the stars at their peak. The most popular guy to ever come here was Mark Lewin; he was simply idolized. He was even more popular than Bruno who made a couple fo 3 week tours in 1966. Ray Stevens, Pat Patterson, Killer Kowalski, Dominic Denucci, Cowboy Bob Ellis, Tex McKenzie, Mario Milano (who lives here now), Bill Miller, Killer Karl Kox, Antonio Pugliese, Sweet Daddy Siki, Scott Bros., Fred Blassie, Spiros Arion, Art Nelson, Rec Bastien were just some of the other names to visit our shores.

Garry Cooper
Sydney, Australia

Evan, enclosed is $6 for 6 issues of WT&N. Yours is the first renewal notice I've received that was typed on the back of a money order application. Matter of fact, it inspired me to call your bank and try to get one in your name to pay for the subscription. The lady on the other end said it didn't sound like "Evan Ginzburg, editor of Wrestling Then & Now" and proceeded to rattle off your address and sub rates...you must plug everywhere! Furthering my attempt to deceive her I said, "I'm the guy who comes in with the W.W.W.F. shirt on that has that extra "W" spray painted on and a picture of Bruno sewn in. This almost did it, but when she asked why it sounded like I was calling long distance, I told her I was in a phone booth on Sun-Ra's planet. Click. I was very sorry to hear he was ailing...

Enjoyed Harry White's Brody column a great deal. I not only followed Bruiser Brody in St. Louis but in Dick the Bruiser's W.W.A. Brody, "King Kong" here, never failed to incite near riots at a high school gym here and his appearance virtually guaranteed a turn-away crowd...more so that Dick. He never turned in this group as I can recall. I would, however, appreciate more recollecting by Harry regarding the St. Louis scene. I was a pre-teen during its heyday but remember seeing Brody-Flair go to a draw there (hope memory serves correctly). I also remember seeing Dick the Bruiser put Flair over clean there, DB tag with Hulk Hogan and Baba win his belt back from Harley Race.

Anyway, I really appreciate your efforts Evan. Thanks.

Chris Martin
Springfield, Il.

Clippings and photos are fine, but the main part of WT&N should be the writing of yourself, Fishman, Horowitz, Stanley, Lano, etc. Memorabilia should supplement the text but not be overdone. The full page picture of Tolos was unnecessary. I would've preferred another page of text.

I agree with you that one need not be a wrestling guru/expert/addict in order to contribute to or edit a bulletin.

Your bulletin should continue to avoid the reportorial/factual approach. Contine to use all-caps and bold print where appropriate. The "no typo" editing is another plus.

I sent Rod Leighton (Rod's Reflector) an article about the sharing of newsletters. Our views are probably far apart on this issue. A copy is enclosed.

Stephen Myerson
Brooklyn, NY

(EDITOR'S NOTE I believe that sharing newsletters are a good thing as it introduces new people to your product. HOWEVER, when someone says I will send you Bulletin X each and every month so DON'T bother supporting it, it puts a nail in the coffin of smaller newsletters like this that run at the break even point or at a miniscule profit.)- E.G.

Your Tolos issue was great, and coincided with my search for any Tolos videos.

I first saw John and Chris in Bridgeport and Washington D.C. shows with Ray Morgan around 1959 and subsequently met them at Sunnyside Gardens in Queens. Even though I knew wrestling was a work by the time I was 7, being around the Tolos Bros. made me wonder.

I then saw John approximately 1969 at the Olympic when he pulled out the python on Blassie. Unlike Jake Roberts, he didn't use it as some sort of dessert for the marks, but immediately used it as an offensive weapon. These were the days when everyone was on the Timothy Leary diet, and from the front row balcony, before a screaming mob of 10,000, Tolos was the ultimate in live entertainment.

His interviews were always out of control, with the aged Dick Lane seemingly on the verge of a heart attack constantly. The best was the week after he threw powder in Blassie's eyes and blinded him. The follow-up was when he brought a present to Blassie, a seeing eye dog!

When masks started proliferating on Mexican wrestlers, he started calling himself the "new" Golden Greek and put a mask on before each match without trying to hide his identity- pure satire. One night I brought a large blowup of Tolos mounted on fibreboard and sat in the front row. On TV he grabs the picture and clocks Raul Mata. Later when Mata used to serenade his orphans in Mexico, John grabbed the guitar and laid Mata out with it, 15 years before the Honkey Tonk Man.

I've been trying to find videos of Tolos from those early 70s and am convinced they don't exist. I talked to Mike Lebell this morning, who produced wrestling then for Channel 13, and he told me all the tapes were erased and reused because tape was so expensive then. But he also admitted he was in the business for money and cared less about the sport. SCUMBAG! (EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob is a lawyer and all slander cases should be addressed his way, not mine!!!)

Pedro Martinez of PM Video (1905 N. Atlantic Blvd., Suite E-5D, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33305) is supposed to send me some copies of the Tolos Bros. tag team matches. By the way, Pedro's tapes are the best quality of any dealer or trader I've ever seen- all he has are broadcast masters, and he has perhaps 1000s of hours dating back to the 1930s.

Finally I went up to Hollywood Book and Poster because Jeff Walton, who was Lebell's gofer, sold most of his collection, rather than donating any of it to the Cauliflower Alley Club. There are tons of old Olympic memorabilita from the 70s and a lot of NWA, AWA, and Southwest programs as well. Dr. Mike and I both came to the conclusion that Walton also has earned the title of SCUMBAG (a fond term from PS 109).

I currently have a 1/2 hour cassette of edited Tolos interviews from March-May 1971. I'm hoping Mike Lano can give me some more tape which I can add. If anyone is interested, for $5 I'll dub a copy and mail it out.

Finally, if anyone has any Tolos video, please contact me at 3101 5th St. #2, Santa Monica, Ca. 90405. Fax and phone 213-396-2090.

Keep up the great work, and save some $$$ so you can go to next year's 25th reunion of the Cauliflower Alley Club on March 21, 1992.

Bob Barnett
Santa Monica, Ca.

Greetings from Lobotomy Land, the Penal Colony of Thornhill and "The Great City of the Dead" (courtesy Alan Ginsberg).

Appreciated the inclusion of my "reader profile" in your publication of issue #14. As far as my thoughts on this inclusion: it's difficult to comment. I respect your insight, compassion and sense of decency that eminates from your work. Me--I could only read my article once and no more...felt embarrassed...it's not you. Have had other work published....felt the same reaction and a separateness and distance from what was on the published, printed page. My sister was in town from Brooklyn. She has a Masters of Fine Arts from Yale. She's well read, is an artist and on occasion writes. Reason I mention it, she read the piece and really enjoyed your editing work...thought it was a fine piece, really thought it was well done. I might add she's not a wrestling fan and the writing moved and touched her...you're doing a great job...

Subscribe to The Wrestling Chatterbox and was saddened and astounded to learn of the bomb scare at the Sunny Beach show programme at the Jewish Community Centre on Staten Island.

Did you see Silence of the Lambs; Thought Hannibal Lecter showed a great work rate. New wrestler: the mad doctor/psychiatrist persona and naturally a heel. As far as movies go, recommend High Hopes (not the Sinatra movie) a British effort.

Thought since dusty has taken over WCW efforts, angles are more enjoyable. Certainly appreciate the talents of Missy Hyatt. Think they should bring back Dutch Mantell as commentator.

Tolos interview was great. Cactus Jack sounds interesting. That Goodheart show in Philly seems like quite a night. Is there a video? Saw Sheik against Bobo Brazil live at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens in 1973 or 74 in a 60 minute heated draw in which Eddie Farhat juiced heavily. Find it amazing they can still wrestle. After seeing a WWF programme in November of 1990 (live) it made me long for the good old days even more. Sometimes I wish they would have a card or part of card devoted to older wrestlers. With that and your reference to wrestling fans (some) as mutants, when Dusty Rhodes came out for that Nov. WWF card, a fan near me seriously screamed, "Wow, look at those muscles!" And so it goes...

Understand, I think, about you feeling more comfortable writing about wrestling but enjoying cinema, theatre and music more than most wrestling matches. Write what you know about but always keep in mind to broaden your consciousness/horizons.

It should be noted that my wife, the lovely Jeanette, has read your material and says over and over again, he's (you) just like you (me). I feel we both should take that as a compliment.

Thank you for the compliments on (my) letters. As far as further written submissions, don't know. At the moment have nothing much to say, although I do think Vince McMahon Jr. is the worlds number one oleaginous remora/sub-human. He should be forced to abdicate, then have to watch every episode of Leave it to Beaver (ethics) and join the circus for an extended period.

Too bad about NWA and their poor Meadowlands show. We used to have 3 hrs. of NWA, then 2 and now one. Admit to watching WWF on occasion but at least half the time I'll have the sound off.

Seeing Jello Biafra this Saturday, but usually don't make many public appearances. Definitely won't be going to the next WWF debacle at Maple Leaf Gardens.

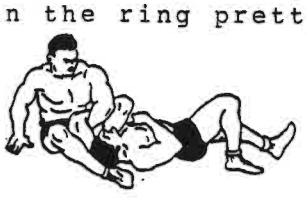
Sorry to hear about George "CryBaby" Cannon's illness. Remember his promoting efforts from Montreal where/when he had the Rougeaus, Dino Bravo and for one match, King Kong Brody against Abdullah. He also had Haku, Steve (The Minotaur) De Salvo and Tom Zenk, I think...foggy...oh the years they do pass by...

Still believe in sunrises...

Lionel Rumm
Thornhill, Ont.

THE LOU ALBANO INTERVIEW PART 2
CONDUCTED 2/15/91 PENTA HOTEL NYC

EG: You must have a million interesting road stories. You've been everywhere...
LA: Well, we've been all around the country and I can tell you one little story. We had a guy named Ripper Leone and this guy was a great kibbutzer and a joker. He got up in Canada and he's in a diner and this one fellow had a little too much to drink. He started arguing with the Ripper, so Leone said, "Get outside kid, I'm gonna punch you in the nose. "You can't talk like that to me!" the guy said. They get outside and Leone said, "Take your coat off! Take your shirt off!" He had the guy stripped to the waist in mid-winter. He was ten feet away from the guy and shadow boxing him. The guy was throwing punches- not even touching him. Finally he said, "Look...we shouldn't do this. Let's go back inside and have a cup of coffee." They go back inside, he buys the guy coffee. All of a sudden he says, "You cheap son of a gun, you let me pay for the coffee!" They go back outside and start arguing all over again. Two weeks later we go back up there, and we said, "Whatever happened to that guy that kept going outside to fight?" They told us, "the poor guy caught Pneumonia from taking his shirt off!" There were little jokes like that. Years ago I drove with my partner Tony Altimore in the old fashioned cars where you set the timer. I said, "I'll drive a hundred miles and you sleep. Then you drive a hundred miles and reverse it. I drove my hundred miles and was kind of tired; got over to the side and let him drive. Seemed like 2 miles went by. The clock was turned, you know? He said the 100 miles is up, because you could turn the clock forward or back in those days. I looked and jeez, son of a gun! I said, "it seemed like only 5 minutes I was sleeping!" He said, "Nah, the 100 miles is up!" He had changed the clock while I was sleeping! Then I got back in, drove another 100 miles. We're going to Chicago and I'm half shot- the old days. Money was tight. We were trying to save. I said, "O.K. Tony, your turn." This time I just didn't happen to doze off and I could see him fiddling with the clock! He said, "Well, wake up! Your turn!" Little jokes like that...we had funny guys who liked to tease. The midgets...they loved to sneak under the table and spray your shoes with gold paint. Every once in a while with a firecracker...we had a lot of kibbutzers in the business.
EG: Can you tell us about your tag team with Tony Altimore? We interviewed him a while back.
LA: Yeah, Tony was a very funny guy. Right now he's up in Connecticut. He's a part-owner I believe of Stamford Taxi business. He's also doing the coordinating for a movie called Calhoun County down in Atlanta; he's helping them with the stunt work. Tony's a very talented individual. He's a good guy. When I saw him he got to be 50; of course he was always 4-5 years older than me. I admit to 58-59. All of a sudden Tony's 5 to 6 years younger than me! But hey, he's been a friend for some 35 or 38 years along with a lot of these fellows like John Tolos and Bruno Sammartino. I believe you should respect other wrestlers. You should realize that they're in there to make money just like you are, but let's get back to the old days with a little more actual wrestling rather than all the Mickey Mouse stuff going on.
EG: Speaking of that, one of your great champions was Ivan Koloff.
LA: Ivan Koloff is the man who defeated Bruno Sammartino years ago and Ivan has been very successful. He's been a very good wrestler. Even today. He's not a baby anymore. I don't know Ivan's actual age- I guess in the mid-forties somewhere- maybe a few years give or take. But he's still capable of moving around in the ring pretty good. A very talented wrestler...



EG: Ivan Koloff is one of my all-time favorites and I was wondering if a guy of his size would have made it if he started in the 90s?
LA: Well, originally when Ivan Koloff started out his name was Red McNulty. We brought him down from Canada. He weighed 285-290 in those days. He slimmed down...he's a great conditioned guy. I think Ivan would have made it in any era. Just like the Tolos Brothers. They didn't need the mass. They didn't need the 290 pounds. They were quick. Six foot two or three, whatever John is. Chris is in great shape **today**. Chris could probably go in and beat half these guys. Bruno Sammartino bench pressed in 1959 565 pounds steroid free. I know this for a fact. I know Bruno. And he did 38 consecutive reps with 330 pounds. People like Jack Lalanne. Alot of people never took steroids. They worked out **clean**. Don't need it...
EG: I know you have to do your show tonight. Anything you'd like to add?
LA: Just like to add it's been a pleasure talking to you and anytime you'd like to come around and want an interview, Captain Lou Albano will be glad to talk to you!

1968

★★ THE PROGRAM ★★

All Star Wrestling Extravaganza

Baltimore CIVIC CENTER

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 8:30 p.m.

Box Office Telephone: 837-2201

MAIN EVENT
2 Out of 3 Falls – 1 Hour

THE SHIEK & GORILLA MONSOON vs HAYSTACKS CALHOUN & BRUNO SAMMARTINO

SPECIAL ATTRACTION
1 Fall – 30 Minutes

ROCKY FITZPATRICK vs SPYROS ARION

1 Fall – 30 Minutes

BULL RAMOS vs BARON MIKEL SCICLUNA

ANOTHER TAG TEAM MATCH
2 Out of 3 Falls – 45 Minutes

TONY ALTIMORE & LOU ALBANO vs ERNIE LASSITER & AL NELSON

1 Fall – 20 Minutes

ARNOLD SKOLARO vs CHUCK ADCOX

1 Fall – 20 Minutes

JOHNNY RODZ vs LENNY SOLOMON

1 Fall – 20 Minutes

ANGELO SAVOLDI vs PETE SANCHEZ

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Issue 14- Flair's 7th title/Remembering Original Sheik/Dr. Lano in Japan/Luke Graham & Co./Brody in St. Louis
Issue 15- Tolos Interview/Tribute including great clips.

WRESTLING TIME MACHINE (JUNE 1980)

(Editor's note: I am reprinting a piece I wrote a decade ago which compares a major WWF card to a spot show. Readers are encouraged to submit a piece to Wrestling Time Machine or any other column in WT&M...)

Professional wrestling is a thriving entertainment which is breaking attendance records throughout the nation, particularly in the New York area. Recent exhibitions have been held in such diverse places as Madison Square Garden and even on the Queens College Campus.

On June 16, Madison Square Garden featured a spectacular 9 bout card headlined by the Bob Backlund-Larry Zybysko clash. Zybysko, a former fan favorite, has lost almost all support since his infamous attack upon his mentor Bruno Sammartino and thus played the part of the snarling, vicious villain. The bout began scientifically, but grew violent as Zybysko resorted to foul tactics. Dragging the champion outside the ring, Zybysko repeatedly rammed the champion's head into the iron ringpost, drawing blood and resulting in the referee's halting of the contest at the 27:39 mark. Fan reaction to the outcome was highly negative, but an exciting(and profitable) rematch is imminent.

Although the Backlund-Zybysko battle was exciting, the best match of the evening was the Ken Patera-Pat Patterson streetfight. The two bleached blondes attacked each other with incredible intensity, twisting, throwing and beating each other's bodies in what seemed to be brutal fashion. A total brawl, fighting took place outside the ring, foreign objects were used as weapons, and the crowd went completely wild. Once again, however, the crowd was dismayed as the villainous Patera won this bout by means of an illegal pin. It was a good night for the bad guys at MSG.

At Queens College later that month, it was pretty much the same story as the villains pummeled the fan favorites at Fitzgerald Gym. Japan's brutal Tor Kamata completely stole the show with his mad antics. Defeating Jose Estrada in a pre-lim, and teaming up with one of the Samoans to defeat young Ric McGrav and Dom DeNucci, he threw the ring steps into the squared circle, used his martial arts, and constantly made extremely funny faces. Kamata somehow reminds one of Curly of Three Stooges fame; he's extremely violent but hilarious at the same time. He's a true credit to the "sport" of wrestling and his presence at the College was a thrill for all concerned. Wrestling is thriving, and upcoming super-cards (at super prices!) in such places as Shea Stadium attest to the fact that its popularity will continue for years to come.

OTHER RESULTS FROM MSG 6/16/80: The Samoans W DeNucci/Putski, Putski W Tor Kamata, Bobby Duncum W Rick McGrav, Rene Goulet W Larry Sharpe DQ, Johnny Rodz W Steve King, and **HULK HOGAN W GORILLA MONSOON in 3:04** (Monsoon was on the way out and Hogan was getting his first big WWF push as a heel at time

WWF TOP TEN RATINGS AS OF 6/80: Champion: Backlund "People's Champion": Bruno Inter-Continental Champion: Patera Tag-Champs: Samoans
1. Zybysko 2. Hogan 3. Tatsumi Fujinami 4. Patterson 5. Terry Funk (who oddly didn't come in at time) 6. Duncum 7. Putski 8. Mil Mascaras 9. Chavo Guerrro 10. Atlas

LOOKING BACK TO CHICAGO WRESTLING - MEMORIES OF 1961 - by Ronald Dobratz

Trying to duplicate his successful year of 1960, Fred Kohler again promoted three cards during the summer months at White Sox Park. Kohler's first outdoor show was so successful in terms of attendance, it was never duplicated. The crowd of 38,000 on June 30 was equal to the combined total for the July 29 and September 1 cards, 40% of the figure attained for twelve shows at the International Amphitheatre, and half of the number attending the 52 Saturday cards at Marigold Arena.

The main attraction was an NWA title match for Buddy Rogers. The "Nature Boy" was the chief ingredient in the revival of Chicago wrestling in 1960. Rogers was impressive in defending his "United States Heavyweight" title on six occasions during the first five months of 1961 against Dick Steinborn (February 3), Johnny Valentine (February 24), Seaman Art Thomas (March 17 & April 28), Haystacks Calhoun (April 14), and Primo Carnera (May 12).

In spite of his glowing record, manager Bobby Davis led Chicago's most hated attraction into the ring as the definite underdog against Pat O'Connor. The Champion of the National Wrestling Alliance proved his right to wear the title belt by triumphing over Hans Schmidt (May 12) and Crusher Lisowski (May 26). As their bout progressed however, it became obvious that the defensive style of the challenger gave him the advantage over the offensive-minded champion. The third and decisive fall concluded in victory for Rogers after he adroitly avoided O'Connor's flying tackle, which resulted in Pat injuring his groin when he landed on the ropes.

Two of Chicago's rowdier wrestlers, Hans Schmidt (vs Fred Atkins) and Moose Cholak (vs The Angel) were disqualified in their bouts on June 30, while the popular and high-flying Latins, Antonino Rocca (vs Karl Von Hess) and Vittorio Apollo (vs Mighty Atlas) had little trouble in disposing of their rugged opponents in two singles contests.

Wild Red Berry's tag team of the Fabulous Kangaroos compiled a record nearly as auspicious as that of Rogers' in Chicago during 1961. The teams of Tito Carreon & Argentina Rocca, Carreon & Sweet Daddy Siki, Nicoli & Boris Volkoff, Primo Carnera & Dick Steinborn, and the Sicilians failed to defeat the devious Australian duo of Al Costello & Roy Herffernan. However there was one blemish on the Chicago record of the Fabulous Kangaroos - the team of Sweet Daddy Siki & Seaman Art Thomas, who not only defeated them on April 14, but held them to a draw when rematched on May 26. Anxious to remove the blot on their record, their manager agreed to participate with his team in a 6-man tag match for June 30th semi-final match. Even though, Red Berry held the light-heavyweight title during the 1950s, his addition could, in no way, compensate for Johnny Valentine being added to the Siki-Thomas team.

On the July 29th card, Rogers defeated Thomas, while his friend, Bob Orton, triumphed over Siki, and Valentine drew with Killer Kowalski. Once again Hans Schmidt was disqualified, losing to Lalo Rodriguez (Cyclon Negro), as was Crusher Lisowski, against Bruno Sammartino. The Angel once again was overmatched, losing to Haystacks Calhoun.

Pat O'Connor received a rematch with Rogers on the September 1st card. O'Connor again avoided Buddy's figure-4 leglock, and managed to win a fall this time, with his pet hold - the "spinning armlock", but the final result was the same. When both wrestlers roared off the ropes into a violent mid-ring collision, it left O'Connor lying flat on his back as the referee counted to ten, while Rogers struggled to his feet at the count of eight.

Argentina Apollo & Argentina Rocca, who defeated the Fabulous Kangaroos on July 29, continued their winning ways on September 1, beating the Sicilians. The team of Lou Albano & Tony Altimore had defeated the popular New York team of Mark Levin & Don Curtis on March 17, but as the summer months faded away, Levin & Curtis came under the influence of the Mighty Atlas. Armed with a new "rule-breaking" arsenal, Atlas' new team whipped the Siki-Thomas combination.

Moose Cholak lost to Bruno Sammartino by disqualification on September 1, and did not appear on the first card of the Fall season back at the International Amphitheatre on September 29, but Bruno was there, wrestling to a draw with Killer Kowalski. Levin & Curtis lost to Rocca & Apollo in the main event, while the Fabulous Kangaroos resumed their winning ways at the expense of Johnny Valentine & Lalo Rodriguez.

The NWA champion was in a rare tag team match on October 20, teaming with Bob Orton against Valentine & Sammartino. Bruno's impressive showing against Rogers led to a title bout on November 10, but Rogers emerged from the match with a victory and the heavyweight belt still tightly secured to his waist. Sammartino teamed with Argentina Apollo on the year's final show in another losing effort, against the Fabulous Kangaroos.

The veteran Japanese wrestler, the Great Togo, brought fellow-Japanese wrestler, Yoshina Sato, and newcomer, Shohei Baba, for a tour of the United States. The 329 lb., 6'9" Baba was awesome in destroying Jack Allen, the fine veteran wrestler from Wisconsin, while Togo & Sato upending Chicago's popular veteran team of Billy Goelz & Johnny Gilbert. After such a favorable beginning, the three were featured in a 6-man tag match to highlight the December 8th card. Chicagoans were ecstatic to watch the Japanese trio get their comeuppance at the hands of Art Thomas, Sweet Daddy Siki, & Bearcat Wright.

Gino Angelo, who held the Midwest heavyweight championship recognized in the Chicagoland area, never did appear at the International Amphitheatre in 1961. Neither did 330 lb. Chuck Bruce, who was named the "Rookie of the Year" by Wrestling Life magazine. However, like Gino Angelo, Chuck, and his 400 lb. brother, Bob, frequently appeared on Saturday evenings at the Marigold Arena.

There was no shortage of exciting tag teams appearing at Marigold. After dropping matches at the Amphitheatre to Levin & Curtis and the Fabulous Kangaroos, Boris Volkoff left brother Nicoli, and began wrestling in the Pacific Northwest. Long before Mikhail Gorbachev had people considering the "super powers" cooperating, Johnny Kace (from Antioch, Illinois) and Nicoli Volkoff (from Leningrad, Russia) had formed a team on the level of the Sicilians, the Bruce brothers, Goelz & Gilbert, and Acosta & Betancourt.

Chicago's popular Puerto Rican duo of Jose Betancourt & Santiago Acosta never appeared as a team at the International Amphitheatre during 1961, however, Acosta teamed with Miguel Perez to defeat Kace & Sicilian Lou Albano on November 10. Early in the year, Betancourt had beaten Lou's partner, Tony Altimore, in a singles match.

The Top Wrestlers of 1952

CARL ABELL—A promising Cleveland prospect, from Ohio State's football ranks . . . Was national YMCA mat champion before turning pro.

KEN ACKLES—Clean, scientific 33-year old from California . . . learned wrestling in Boston YMCA and Hollywood (Calif.) Athletic Club . . . Has acted on legitimate stage and in movies . . . Ackles' specialized hold, the abdominal stretch, is so dangerous it has been barred in many states . . . In ten years as a professional, he has had some 1,650 bouts, losing about 40.

BOB ADESKY—A Canadian strong man as much at home on the mat as with the heavy weights . . . One of the Dusek "riot squad" type . . . A 78 inch reach stretches from his 6-2 frame . . . Has been wrestling professionally for half a dozen years.

AL ALEXANDER—A Brooklynite, boasting powerful leg development . . . was Army's European Theatre champ during the war . . . Once held Midwest Junior Heavyweight crown.

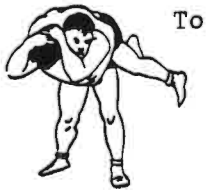
ALI BABA—Squat (5-foot-5, 200 pound) native of Bitlis, Kurdistan, Turkey, where he began by wrestling a circus bear . . . Was the last undisputed world champion, winning crown from Dick Shikat . . . He was the smallest man ever to hold the title and became the first ever to lose it on a foul . . . Mat veteran of 24 years, Ali is one of the most powerful grapplers alive . . . Retired to his ranch near Fresno, Calif., at one time, but made a comeback, at 40.

ALI BEY—Often called "The Turkish Terror" and "Scourge of the Balkans" for rough, tricky mat tactics . . . Native of Constantinople, he enters the ring in turban or fez, pantaloons and sash, and sits on a prayer rug, instead of ring stool . . . Insists he'll quit the mat if his famed handlebar moustache is ever shaved off . . . A Turk's moustache, he discloses, is his symbol of strength.

OVILA ASSELIN—This 23-year old French Canadian specializes in the dropkick and the Irish whip . . . has been a pro for four years . . . Well-muscled 225-pounder, Asselin won the title of "Mr. Canada" as a 17-year old . . . Starred as a high school hockey player.

FRED ATKINS—A few years ago, Australian wrestlers coming to America told amazing tales of the mat prowess of a champion Down Under . . . When Fred Atkins arrived on this continent, he proved to be all his countrymen said about him . . . He reached Canada in 1949 and promptly took Whipper Billy Watson's crown away . . . A clean wrestler, Fred specializes in forearm smashes.

JIM AUSTERI—Small (5-foot-7) as wrestlers go, 38-year old Austeri is a vicious mat man . . . His father was a champion in Italy . . . Jim came to U. S. as a boy of 13, was undefeated for four years as amateur champ . . . Taught by the great Zybszko and Strangler Lewis . . . He held the world light-heavyweight title for 12 years . . . The night he won it (1938), he asked a pretty ringsider to hold his wallet for him . . . She became Mrs. Austeri soon afterward.



To Be Continued!

IN THE DEVIL'S DEN
BY THE JERSEY DEVIL

WE'RE ALREADY WELL INTO A NEW YEAR AND THIS COLUMN IS PROBABLY THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IN YOUR PATHETIC EXISTENCE. SO, I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE ISSUES!

EDITOR, AND I USE THIS TERM VERY LOOSELY, EVAN GINZBURG, TELLS ME THAT RESPONSE TO MY INITIAL COLUMN HAS BEEN BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS (OF COURSE, A DATE WITH ROSEANN BARR IS BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS TOO!). SUCCESS HAS A WAY OF FOLLOWING THE GREAT JERSEY DEVIL! MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, I AM A BEACON IN THE DARKNESS. WHY, CONSIDER THE FACT THAT ONE OF WT&N'S ILLUSTRIOUS COLUMNISTS, GARY FISHBREATH, CALLED ME AN ELMER FUDD IMITATION. JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU THE INCREDIBLE LITERARY TALENTS OF THIS STAFF, QUOTING FROM BUGS BUNNY CARTOONS!

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO DENY YOUR PAST, EVEN WHEN YOUR PRESENT AND FUTURE IS SO STUNNING! AS A KID, I REMEMBER TURNING ON THE LITTLE TV SET IN MY PARENTS ROOM AND ATTEMPTING TO TUNE IN THE LOCAL UHF STATION TO WWWF WRESTLING. WHEN I WAS SUCCESSFUL IN LOCKING THE CHANNEL IN, I WOULD BECOME MESMERIZED BY THE EVENTS THAT UNFOLDED IN THE WRESTLING RING. SADLY, I ROOTED FOR THE FACES: SAMMARTINO, VICTOR RIVERA, DOMINIC DENUCCI AND THE OTHERS. I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW IT COULD BE THAT THE "GOOD GUYS" TOOK SUCH PUNISHMENT FROM THE "BAD GUYS" WEEK AFTER WEEK. DIDN'T THEY KNOW THAT BARON SICLUNA WAS GOING TO PULL THAT FOREIGN OBJECT FROM HIS TIGHTS? COULDN'T THEY STOP LOU ALBANO FROM USING THAT POINTED BEARD AS A WEAPON? IT WAS FRUSTRATING TO THINK THAT THE FORCES OF GOOD WEREN'T ABLE TO "SEE IT COMING"! LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT THE VERY NEXT MONDAY NIGHT, THE FORCES OF EVIL WOULD GET THEIR TALES WHIPPED AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN. YOU SEE, I WAS TOO SMALL TO ATTEND THE MATCHES.

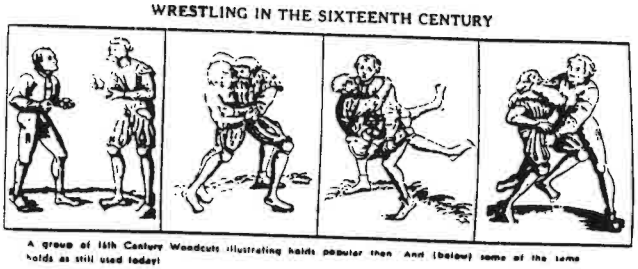
THEN, THE TIME CAME WHEN I COULD FINALLY GET TO THE GARDEN AND AFTER SITTING THROUGH COUNTLESS BATTLES WHERE CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW WOULD COME BACK FROM SURE ANNIHILATION TO DO HIS WARDANCE, I BEGAN TO RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH. THE HEELS WOULD NEVER GET AN EVEN BREAK FROM WWWF OFFICIALS. HOW COULD A TROLL LIKE BRUNO SAMMARTINO BEAT A MONSTER LIKE DON LEO JONATHAN WITHOUT PROTECTION FROM HIGHER AUTHORITIES?

FORTUNATELY, THE 1980'S SAW THE ADVENT OF A NEW BREED OF HEEL. MEN LIKE RODDY PIPER, THE ROAD WARRIORS AND THE HORSEMEN BROUGHT NEW MEANING TO THE WORDS "WIN AT ALL COSTS". IN THE 1990'S, MEN LIKE SID VICIOUS, THE NASTY BOYS AND THE UNDERTAKER WILL FOLLOW THE TRADITION.

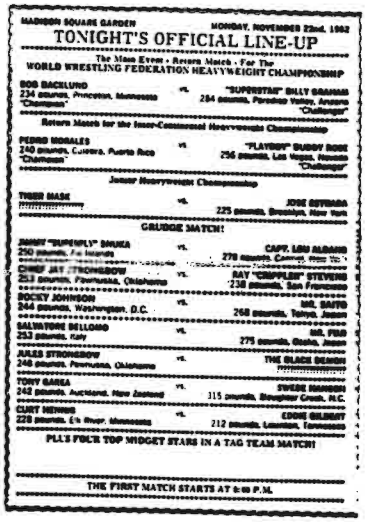
NOW IF WE COULD ONLY ELIMINATE THE TOOTHLESS GEEKS THAT STILL DREAM OF ANOTHER BOB BACKLUND TITLE REIGN!

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED
THIS IS THE JERSEY DEVIL
FROM DEEP ...IN THE SWAMPS...OF JERSEY

WRESTLING IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY



A group of 16th Century Woodcuts illustrating holds popular then. And (below) some of the same holds as still used today!



MADISON SQUARE GARDEN — MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd, 1992

TONIGHT'S OFFICIAL LINE-UP

The Main Event - Return Match - For The WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

BOB BACKLUND, 234 pounds, Princeton, Minnesota, "Champion" — vs. — "SUPERSTAR" BILLY GRAHAM, 284 pounds, Paradise Valley, Arizona, "Challenger"

Return Match for the Inter-Continental Heavyweight Championship

PEDRO MORALES, 240 pounds, Culebra, Puerto Rico, "Champion" — vs. — "PLAYBOY" BUDDY ROSE, 256 pounds, Las Vegas, Nevada, "Challenger"

Junior Heavyweight Championship

THE MASK — vs. — JOSE ESTRADA, 225 pounds, Brooklyn, New York

GRUDGE MATCH!

JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA, 250 pounds, Fiji Islands — vs. — CAPT. LOU ALBANO, 270 pounds, Cornwall, Prince Edward Island

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW, 253 pounds, Pawhuska, Oklahoma — vs. — JAY "CRIPPLER" STEVENS, 238 pounds, San Francisco

ROCKY JOHNSON, 244 pounds, Washington, D.C. — vs. — MR. SAITO, 268 pounds, Tokyo, Japan

SALVATORE BELLOMO, 253 pounds, Italy — vs. — MR. FUJI, 275 pounds, Osaka, Japan

JULES STRONGBOW, 248 pounds, Pawhuska, Oklahoma — vs. — THE BLACK DEMON

TONY GAREA, 242 pounds, Auckland, New Zealand — vs. — SWEDE HANSON, 315 pounds, Slaughter Creek, N.C.

CURT HENNIG, 270 pounds, Ely River, Minnesota — vs. — EDDIE GILBERT, 212 pounds, Lewiston, Tennessee

PLUS FOUR TOP MIDGET STARS IN A TAG TEAM MATCH!

THE FIRST MATCH STARTS AT 8:00 P.M.

FOR WRESTLING THEN & NOW
BY DR. MICHAEL LANO

LET'S RESTORE DIGNITY TO WOMEN'S WRESTLING

MANY OF YOU WT&N'ERS WONDER WHERE I'VE BEEN THE LAST FEW ISSUES. I'VE GONE TO JAPAN SEVERAL TIMES THIS YEAR ALREADY, AND PLAN ON RETURNING THIS JULY OR AUGUST. MY FAVORITE GROUP FOR WORKRATE AND OVERALL EXCELLANCE OVER THERE, ALL JAPAN WOMEN WILL DEFINATELY BE THE HIGHLIGHT. I'VE FOLLOWED JAPANESE WRESTLING INTENSELY SINCE 1971, AND WAS NOT EVEN AWARE AJW HAD BEEN AROUND BEFORE THAT.

BASICALLY JAPANESE PRO WRESTLING STYLE BEGAN WHEN RIKIDOZAN BROUGHT THAT STYLE TO TOKYO IN THE EARLY 50'S. DOZAN, THE GOD OF JAPANESE WRESTLING, WAS A FORMER SUMO STAR WHOSE SON, MIMOTA, WORKS ALL JAPAN TODAY. DOZAN INTRODUCED SHOEHEI BABA AND KANJI "ANTONIO" INOKI IN HIS JAPAN PROMOTION ON THE SAME CARD IN 1961, AND BOTH WERE LAUDED AND CELEBRATED FOR THEIR 30 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUSINESS RECENTLY.

WHAT I NOTED IN JAPAN WAS A SENSE OF PRIDE AND DIGNITY AMONGST ALL THE PROMOTIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE TITAN-WRONGLY INFLUENCED SWS. BUT WITHOUT TITAN'S INVOLVEMENT, SWS WOULD BE TOLERABLE AS WELL. THE WOMEN'S PROMOTIONS PUT WHATEVER WAY AMERICAN WOMEN ARE PRESENTED TO SHAME. U.S. WOMEN'S WRESTLING IS SADLY LACKING IN ALL AREAS. WATCHING TWO RECENT LPWA TAPINGS AT DEBBIE DRAKE (MALENKO'S) APARTMENT IN TOKYO, I WAS SHOCKED AT WHAT I SAW. ON THE POSITIVE, WE HAVE JIM CORNETTE, BRILLIANT AS ALL HELL AS PER USUAL. AND HE'S ENOUGH REASON TO LISTEN TO EVERY SPOKEN WORD. BUT ON THE NEGATORY, WE HAVE THE T AND A PRESENTATION OF THE WOMEN. ALL BUT MADUSA MICELI. THE ONE SHINING RAY OF HOPE FOR THESE SHOWS IS MADUSA. THE FIRST AMERICAN ATHLETE ASKED TO, AND WITH ENOUGH GUTS TO GIVE EVERYTHING UP AND BE TRAINED JAPANESE STYLE, SHE ATTEMPTED TO WRESTLE THAT WAY ON THE LAST TWO TAPINGS FOR TOR BERG. TOR WAS TRYING TO EVEN FORCE MADUSA TO WEAR SOME MAKEUP, GET THE HAIR OUT OF HER FACE AND APPEAR MORE FEMININE-WHICH IS RIDICULOUS. IF AMERICAN FANS CAN'T BE TRAINED TO APPRECIATE SOLID WORKRATE ALONG WITH PRETTY FACES AND CURVES, THEN I GIVE UP. IF I TOOK THE "DENSIST MARK" TYPE GUY MARK FAN OVER THERE- I CAN BET HE'D SAY, "WOW-WHAT ACTION!" WHAT WE'VE SEEN THE LAST 15 YEARS IS EMPHASIS INSTEAD ON POUFFY HAIR AND PLENTY OF HAIRSPRAY, CLEAVAGE; AND MORE RECENTLY- THE SCARY STEROID SYNDROME WITH BIG MO AND TERRY POWER. IN CONCLUSION, LET'S SMARTEN UP THOSE AROUND US. TELL THESE GUYS TO APPLAUDE MADUSA AND HER STIFF MOVES AND ANYONE ELSE WHO WORKS. SAVE THE SEX STUFF FOR INTERVIEWS AND VOID THE STEROIDS. IS THERE ANYTHING SEXY ABOUT A LADY WITH A DEEPER VOICE THAN YOUR OWN?!

UPCOMING NEXT ISSUE

We've interviewed the legends: Tolos & Albano. Now we'll check out the other end of the spectrum: the tough life of a young wrestler as we interview west coast sensation Scott Cole. Also: the return of our other great columnists: Harry White, Mike Rodgers, and all our regular writers! Also: an extensive "inside" letter from an ex-wrestler which goes into detail on the great "shooters" of the past, and plenty of other surprises and laughs.

As the immortal Henry Winkler would say, "Be here or be square!" Renew your present subscriptions at current rates before the inevitable increase!!!

WILD RED BERRY

Because Berry raised such a row with the National Wrestling Association Mc-Shain finally granted the Wild Kansan a rematch. The holder of the Light Heavyweight title will be determined in tonight's main event.

ENCOUNTERING THE STARS OF THE PAST--
DEAN SILVERSTONE'S OFFICE. CIRCA 1970s, WASHINGTON STATE
PART 2 BY: ANONYMOUS

Ripper Collins:

By his antics and actions one drew the conclusion that he was a man who liked boys better than girls. This swishy routine, long before Adrian Adonis, in all his stomach turning Vince McMahon hyped fury, made a mockery of it, really angered the fans. Collins, unlike Adonis, never came out and used the word "Gay" (which didn't mean the same then anyway) and let his actions and flashy clothes imply a twisted preference without admitting to anything. This of course, sent the logger, fisherman, Boeing engineer patriots in the audience into a frenzy and he quickly became the most hated villain in Washington, for this office, without even having to wrestle for the honor. His lisping voice and multi-colored clothes was all he needed to infuriate the public, just like Gorgeous George two decades ago. He was a tough little weirdo too, who could take a fight to someone hogging the spotlight fast if he so desired and educating anyone who wouldn't "sell" for him. Also a dressing room clown by most accounts and funny to be around.

Karl Kramer:

The obligatory, bald-headed, scowling Nazi of the group, Kramer was hated because this was a time when Nazi villains were not completely out of the picture. While the old war hatreds of two decades before had started to die and Nazi gimmicks didn't work like they once did with the Von Brauners, The Von Steigers, Hans Schmidt, or Kurt Von Hess, Silverstone evidently wanted a Nazi anyway and this is what he got, for better or worse. The guy wasn't bad in the ring, but he wasn't great either, and having him on the losing end rather than feeding him win after win didn't make him a very convincing villain, although he certainly made some ferocious faces in the ring and in publicity photos. He was kind of a parody on purpose.

Moses Morales:

A former wrestling photographer named Nate Eulkin, he got into the wrestling world on a fluke and although he never recieved many wins, was better than many of today's highly pushed phenomenons. He was not a very big man, but knew some fancy moves and could give the public a good show. He didn't make the grade I guess, as little else was heard of him.

Bobo Mongol:

The obligatory Mongol of the group, who liked to fight in chain matches and was presumedly a cousin to Geeto, Beppo, Bolo, and other pseudo Mongols in other parts of the USA. With all these Mongols invading the USA, it's a wonder the FBI didn't take action. Bobo was, well, a bobo! He was more for comic relief than a serious villain and few people believed him to be any more from Mongolia than they would have believed Dean Silverstone to have been from the moon!

Other people with this group at one time or another during its short history were Tito Montes, Chris Colt, Beautiful Bobby Payne, Butcher John Quinn, Magnificent Maurice Pasha, Goldie Rodgers, Greg Lake, Cowboy Bob Yuma, Ricky Renaldo, Armon Hussain, Pago Pago (a referee with a more oddball name than the wrestlers), Freddie Baron, Robert Gibson (if I recall right), and several other nobodies who came and went as fast as this office. It was fun though, while it lasted.

THE FABULOUS GINZBURG BOYS
BY VIC STANLEY

One of the finest films of recent years is "The Fabulous Baker Boys." It deals with adult themes in a subdued and understated way which perfectly captures the quiet essence of nocturnal city life, while conveying a sense of isolation within an urban jumble of humanity. I guess I feel an affinity for the character of Jack Baker, the loner of the two brothers. In my own life, like Jack, I found that it was easier to move from affair to meaningless affair rather than face the possibility of emotional attachment and the burdens that may accompany it. It was just easier that way, but it also made it that much more difficult to confront my own feelings when I met a woman that I really cared for. I shrugged it off as the nature of the business I had immersed in at the time. Jack's struggle within himself to admit his love for Suzie Diamond belied his detached, world weary exterior. But eventually, as is usually the case in the movies, everything is resolved with a happy, albeit less than storybook ending. Real life is not always so simple.

What does this all have to do with professional wrestling? It is not so much the sport itself that is important, but the people and the relationships that are formed because of it. I'm sure that this is true with any hobby or common interest, but there is something very special about the community of wrestling fans.

We newsletter writers are a strange bunch. We are all loners in a certain sense. Never before have I encountered such a divergent group of people, but at the same, never has any group had so much in common, wrestling aside. Through all the years I spent in the music business, I came into contact with an endless stream of acquaintances, hangers on and nameless faces which are all but forgotten today. But in the last year I have made many close friends that I have yet to meet in person and perhaps never will. Our mutual avocation of wrestling has been a touchstone in relating on more important levels. We have all provided each other with moral support and encouragement during periods of struggle. We have shared the pain, the failures and the frustrations as well as the victories. My lengthy letters and phone conversations with Evan and Rodney in particular, have invariably branched off from wrestling into other areas - our lives. We all experience the typical pmroblems of jobs, money and relationships and are three perfect examples of the old adage "Misery Loves Company." In the meantime, we are having a ball with our writing. We are strong - we are invincible - we are...fellas!

Lately I have paused to ponder the nature of our common bonds and I have formed certain conclusions. Our mutual love of wrestling is one constant which has endured from our childhoods. Through all our adolescent tribulations, our professional disappointments and shattered love affairs, the sport still endures. That is the function of escapism, and in this sense, wrestling has never let us down. True, it may be at a low creative ebb at the moment, but I am reminded of yet another old adage. "Things aren't as good as they used to be - in fact, they never were." We even have a good time complaining about it. But some other things have never been better; these being the spirit of friendship, comaraderie and humor we have shared. Although the main intent is to provide entertaining subject matter for the readers, it is a plus to be able to enjoy our work. How many people can say that? Thanks guys!

GARY FISHMAN'S COLUMN!

I would like to start off this month by thanking the Jersey Devil for the nice things he wrote about me this issue. I recently made a trip to New Jersey to check out the Jersey Devil's background. Suffice it to say that it's not for nothing he uses an alias. Many of you may remember him as the HACKENSACK HEMMORHOID...Our congratulations go out to Colonel Mustafa who was recently voted most likely to conceive...Here is my list of the 10 worst feuds I have ever seen in no particular order:

1. Bundy & Studd vs. Hillbillies WWF
2. Andre vs. Studd WWF
3. Tony Atlas vs. Ted Arcidi WWF
4. Baron Von Rachske vs. Jim Garvin AWA
5. Steve Regal vs. Buck Zumhoff AWA
6. Lex Luger vs. The Big Cat NWA
7. Jim Duggan vs. The Iron Sheik WWF
8. Tony Atlas & Rocky Johnson vs. Wild Samoans WWF
9. Hillbilly Jim vs. Brutus Beefcake WWF
10 Sgt. Slaughter vs. Boris Zuckoff AWA

There have probably been other stinkers that have gratefully long since left my brain.

Evan Ginzburg, Adam Horowitz, Dan Reilly, Ron Lemieux and The Jersey Devil recently got together for a meeting of the minds and in response to the above came up with their own list of pics for worst feuds of all time.

1. Flair vs. Steamboat
2. Hansen & Brody vs. Funks
3. Pat O'Conner vs. Buddy Rogers
4. Tiger Mask vs. Dynamite Kid
5. The Freebirds vs. Von Erichs

They also gave honorable mention to Steamboat-Savage, Piper-Valentine, and the Midnight Express vs. Tully & Arn.

I think the reason Evan puts out a nostalgia bulletin is that he hasn't had a date since 1978. In the last issue he claims to have a new girlfriend. One thing I'll say is that Evan's girlfriends & WWF cards are very much alike. They both look good on paper...A final note- the UWF PPV has as much chance of succeeding as Adam Horowitz has of getting rid of his acne before the turn of the century...

The Listening-Post

Hope you all are enjoying the "new" WT&N!

Why the format change you might ask? In the spirit of oh so painful honesty, there's a number of reasons. Although I have always done my best to put out a warm, entertaining sheet that I feel is "worth the lousy buck," I realize WT&N has a few built in limitations. One of course is the limited size. In order to keep postal costs and the cover price down, ten pages is the max I've set for myself. WT&N has always been a "quick read." Now that I've managed to improve my primitive computer skills to this point, I've managed to squeeze a whole lot more material in. When I lose a subscriber, I always rationalize that it's "wrestling burn-out," "sheet burn-out" or any of a dozen other reasons, but a recent non-published letter that was highly critical (but meant to help me improve the sheet), opened my eyes to some of WT&N's "problems". Doing a bulletin is a "mixed blessing"; you meet your "childhood heroes" (like Tolos & Albano), make great friends, and receive warm, heartfelt letters from people indicating you have in a small way brought some joy into their lives. On the other hand, you put countless hours into a project that brings in a miniscule amount of money and sometimes you disappoint those people you most want to please. Just as most hardcore fans feel they cannot "live without" the Observer, my goal is for a fraction of that audience to feel the same way about WT&N. We may never attract the "kids" who wouldn't know Bob Backlund from Bob Ellis, but there are those who don't want to read one more word about Sid Vicious, and I want WT&N to be your newsletter.

With nearly 50 sheets on the market, I'll never take your support for granted! Be with us as we improve and grow...

CURFEW BY EVAN GINZBURG

More sheets worth checking out: Jeff Mullins' RWRB Pro Wrestling Sushi (one of my faves!)- $1.25 to PO Box 36189 San Jose, Ca. 95158, Tom Burke's Global Wrestling ($1.50 plus SASE) to 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Ma. 01108, Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer (bet you heard of that one!) $6/4 issues to PO Box 1228 Campbell, Ca. 95009-1228...You may be wondering why I chose to use the picture of Danny Mcshain on the cover this issue- it's quite simple, actually. I LIKED IT!...Believe it or not there's 2 publications with the same title: Piledriver! Both are worth getting- Send $6 for a well done/colorful magazine to Piledriver- PO Box 34, Glenhuntly, Vic. Australia 3163; you can also write to Glen Radford at 73 Humber Rd., Beeston, Notts England NG9 2ET for info on his fine bulletin...Thanks to Steve Beverly for his nice comments on WT&N in a recent Matwatch ($5 for 5 issues to 16 Robin Hood Lane, Jackson TN. 38305.) Steve will soon be winning a presidential medal of honor for sitting through more horrific TV matches than any human being should be allowed to...Sorry to hear of the recent death of NY based indie star Bialo The Giant. Bialo recently appeared in Steven Seagal's exciting Out For Justice...Those interested in studying to become a wrestler can contact The Sweet Daddy Siki/Ron Hutchinson Pro Wrestling Training Center at PO Box 22523, Coxwell Postal Service, 300 Coxwell Ave., Toronto Ont M4L 3W7...Congrats to Cactus Jack on his recent engagement...Best action & stunts I've seen in a long time- Jackie Chan's Police Story which played at the NY City Film Fest at Lincoln Center (a critically acclaimed martial arts flick!!!). Out on video...The Texas Scorpion (yet to be unmasked!) asked me to let you know that he's selling the entire 15 issue set of his now defunct Texas Roundup for $15 postpaid-- cash only to PO Box 75054-0262 Grand Prairie, Tx. 75054. Said he may write a piece for WT&N!...Speaking of "Defunkt," have you ever heard the band by the same name? Joseph Bowie (brother of trumpet great Lester Bowie) is sizzling. Mix of funk, jazz & rock...I was sort of shocked by a close-up of Dustin Rhodes' scarred forehead. Like father like son, I guess; Hear it's almost a point of pride in the biz, but if a kid looks this bad, picture him ten years down the road. Don't see the appeal personally...Billie Jessee runs The Nikita Koloff Fan Club at 1000 Stone Gate Rd., Apt. N9 Kingsport, TN 37660...Don't miss New Jack City! Intense!...Thanks to Steve Sims for the recent Mexico & Japan tape he sent...On the subject of tapes, Ken Landgraf of 315 E 21 St. Apt. 7-H NYC 10010 has an amazing collection of those hard to come by Mexican Wrestler (Mil Mascaras, Blue Demon, Row Lemieux etc.) vs. Zombies/Monsters/Killer Robots flicks that are so bad they're good. He also has an unbelievable collection of horror, biker, sci-fi, and other "Psychotronic" type stuff...The semi-legendary Adam Horowitz of 336 Harbor Drive in Lido Beach, NY 11561 has an extensive collection of wrestling tapes for sale...Anybody out there see the new TV series My Life And Times? Great stuff!...WT&N had its very best months recently and we continue to grow. Thanks so much!...John Arezzi's new # is 1-900-246-Slam; he presents Spotlight On Wrestling Sun. morns in NY on 1240 AM from 10AM-Noon...How's this for a serious jam? Stax/Volt Review that I caught 1AM at the Lone Star in NYC recently- Booker T. & MGs backing Carla Thomas, Sam Moore & Eddie Floyd! I live for stuff like that...My main man Vic Stanley has put out a tremendous publication called A Stream Of Semi-Consciousness which deals with wrestling, cult films, TV and other subjects from the prolific one. Highly, highly recommended- $3.00 cash to PO Box 176 Lafayette, IN 47902-0176- Vic may be the most underrated writer in wrestling fandom...I'll be out in San Diego around Labor Day- anybody out in sunny Ca. want to catch a Tijuana card with me? May also do Vegas....Ditto Meadowlands Bash 7/3. Drop me a line & we'll hang out!...You can hear our beloved Doc Lano on 1-900-990-6676 (95 cents a minute for the latest wrestling news and flossing tips!)...Evan's Surreal Stories- A guy walks in the lobby of the building where I work. I look at him and say to myself, boy, he has the same stupid hairdo as the guy from the rap band Kid & Play(a towering flattop). Woman asks for his autograph- it is the Kid! I'm on the elevator with him and another guy. I'm trying not to stare at his head! Suddenly this guy turns to him and says, "Do you know what floor the Food Stamps are on?"Kid (who's probably worth a few million easy), looks at him and with a deadpan expression simply says, "No." Fellini could not have filmed a stranger scene than this one...Just got the first issue of Rodney Leighton's new sheet, Rod's Reflector- different and worth reading- only $1 to Rodney Leighton RR3 Pugwash, NS B0K 1L0...Speaking of strange looking dudes, doesn't Davie Boy Smith look like he's about to explode or something? (And isn't Curt Hennig's body mutating at a wild pace too?). Maybe someone can start a newsletter called Steroid Watch or something where he can keep tabs on how all our favorites are killing themselves...And on that happy note, catch you all next time!...

AL COSTELLO WINS WORLD TITLE

THE singing wrestler from Rockdale, Sydney, Al Costello, together with fellow Australian Roy Heffernan, recently won the world tag team wrestling championship from Pepper Gomez and El Medico in Texas.

Thus two more Australians have made the grade. Fred Atkins and Athol Layton are two others who have found fame and fortune overseas, while the present world champion Pat O'Connor, is a New Zealander.

Australasia certainly has come of age on the grappling mat.

Actually Costello is a Sicilian born hunk of man, whose real name is Giacomo Costa. But he came to Australia at the age of six and is as much an Australian as any Australian born man.

Possessor of a beautiful tenor voice, Al is a man of many parts. A former boxer, he is a black and white artist, a big game fisherman and a former holder of several Australian weight-lifting records. In the ring he is rough, tough and mean with as great a variety of holds as any grappler in the world. Outside the ring he is a perfect gentleman who is at ease in any company.

He became a professional wrestler at the age of 21, but it was some time before he got a chance to show his ability on the mat. Then he got his break at Parramatta and had 65 contests in six months.

For years he tried to crash the big time with Stadiums Ltd., but overseas wrestlers were packing the arenas here and Al couldn't break in. He went abroad and became an immediate sensation in New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore. In South Africa he was known as the "Thumping Thrush"; in Singapore they called him the "Australian Caruso". Wherever he went he caused riots among the fans because of his rough work, but fans turned up to see him again and again. They wanted the thrills he gave them with his spectacular wrestling; they liked the way he wooed them before his bouts with his singing.

After a successful tour abroad, Al found Australian promoters eager to use him. He met Little Wolf, Seelie Samara, Ray Gunkel and others. In Singapore, in a match against King Kong, someone crowned the referee—it wasn't done by either of the wrestlers, but by a fan. A riot broke out when Costello grabbed a chair to crown Kong. Spectators swarmed into the ring and Al had to keep them at bay with the chair, lion-tamer fashion.

In South Africa irate fans rushed the ring armed with bottles, chairs and other weapons. They were after Al's blood. After the bout Costello had to be smuggled out of the stadium, as fans were waiting for him. Some saw him quickly leave in a car and stones were thrown.

In Perth he was arrested three times for inciting a riot. In New Zealand one girl fan was so incensed at Al's capers that she climbed into the ring to attack the Aussie. It took two men and a full nelson to subdue her.

Al is a rough boy.

He went to USA and teamed with Heffernan, the pair calling themselves the "Fabulous Kangaroos". They took the States by storm. In their first match at Madison Square Garden, as a tag team, they opposed Antonino Rocca and Miguel Perez —and drew 62,000 dollars through the turnstiles, with 10,000 fans unable to gain admission. Ticket scalpers got as much as 50 dollars per ringside seat! Furthermore, they became the only wrestlers to completely sell out Madison Square Garden twice in a row.

The team is a sensation on TV—and why not? Apart from the thrills they give, they have a gimmick which is irresistible in the States—they enter the ring in Australian battle dress and carry hunting boomerangs! Before each bout they scatter small boomerangs among the audience.

Al Costello and Roy Heffernan have caught on in a big way.

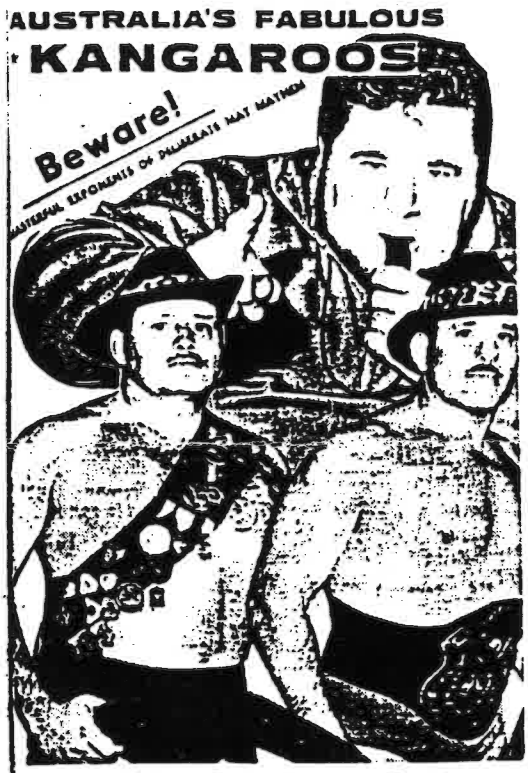
AUSTRALIAN RING, July, 1959

NOSTALGIA PROFILE---

AL COSTELLO

Materials Courtesy of:

Don Laible and Howard Roth



Al Costello and most effective tag partner to date, Don Kent. George Cannon, their manager, towers over them via a poster.

The ★ Star

WRESTLING PROGRAM

Teaneck Armory — Sat. Dec. 28, 1963

ONE FALL TO A FINISH

Argentina Apollo vs. Jerry Graham

3 — TAG TEAM MATCHES — 2 OUT OF 3 FALLS

Gorilla Monsoon and Killer Kowalski **VS.** John Tolas and Chris Tolas

Miguel Perez and Pedro Morales **VS.** Al Costello KANGAROOS Roy Heffernan

MIDGETS

FARMER PETE and IRISH JACKIE **VS.** SKY LO LO BILLY the KID

TIME LIMIT ONE FALL

Louis Torres vs. Tony Marino

Wednesday Afternoon, February 22, 1961

TO-DAY'S CARD

MAIN EVENT

TAG TEAM MATCH 2 OUT OF 3 FALLS

PRIMO **CARNERA** -VS- **Fabulous KANGAROOS**

CHIEF **BIG EAGLE**

MIDGET TAG TEAM MATCH 2 OUT OF 3 FALLS

BROWN BOMBER & PANCHO LOPEZ

vs

BILLY THE KID & PEE WEE JAMES

1 FALL TO A FINISH

Johnny VALENTINE vs **The CRUSHER**

1 FALL 30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT

Sailor Art THOMAS vs **Danny FERRAZZO**

1 FALL 30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT

Arnold SKAALAND vs **Billy DARNELL**

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

(WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF EVENTS)

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The Promoter is not responsible if contestants fail to appear in ring because of conditions beyond our control. Whenever possible substitute bouts will be arranged.

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